

**ARTICLE II.**

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Sec. 22-19. Purpose, powers and duties.**

There shall be a conservation commission of seven (7) regular members for the protection, promotion and development of the natural resources of the city. The conservation commission may exercise, but not be limited to, any of the following powers and duties:

- (1) conduct researches into the city's natural resources and seek to coordinate the activities of unofficial bodies organized for similar purposes and may, to the extent of funds appropriated there for, advertise, prepare, print and distribute material which it deems necessary for its work;
- (2) prepare and amend a conservation and passive outdoor recreation plan which shall be, as far as possible, consistent with the comprehensive plan and with any regional plans relating to the area. Such plan shall show the nature and ownership of any open area and whether and how its use is restricted;
- (3) acquire in the name of the city, subject to the approval of the mayor and city council, by gift, purchase, grant, bequest, devise, lease or otherwise the fee or lesser interest in real property, as may be necessary to properly maintain, improve, protect or limit the future use of open spaces within the city, and may manage and control the same;
- (4) adopt rules and regulations governing the use of land and waters under its control and prescribe penalties for any violation thereof. (Ord. No. 102, 12-15-75; Ord. Z-42, 02-17-09)

**Section 22-20. Composition, appointment of members, alternate members, terms**

- (a) The seven (7) regular members shall be appointed by the mayor with the approval of the city council for terms of three years.
- (b) There shall also be four (4) alternate members appointed by the mayor with approval by the city council. In order to stagger the expiration of their terms, the initial terms of the alternate members shall be as follows: one member shall be appointed for one (1) year; two members shall be appointed for two (2) years; one member shall be appointed for three (3) years. All alternate member appointments subsequent to the initial appointments shall be for a term of three (3) years.
- (c) Both regular and alternate members shall continue to serve after expiration of their terms until their successors shall be duly appointed and qualified. Vacancies in the offices of either regular or alternate members shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment for any unexpired term.
- (d) The regular members shall elect one member as chair. In the event that a regular member is absent or unable to act for any reason, the chair shall designate an alternate member to act. (Ord. Z-42, 02-17-09)

**Sec. 22-21. Relationship with planning and development board.**

The conservation commission shall function as an advisory body to the planning and development board on all matters affecting the natural resources of the city for the purpose of coordinating a conservation and passive outdoor recreation plan with the comprehensive plan. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to limit the powers of a conservation commission granted under Chapter 40 of the General Laws. (Ord. No. 102, 12-15-75)

**END**